

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

January 19, 2010 – 4:00 PM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Present: Carl Ford, Chairman
Chad Mitchell, Vice-Chairman
Jon Barber, Member
Raymond Coltrain, Member
Tina Hall, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Ford convened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Chairman Ford provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Coltrain seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2010 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

- Commissioner Mitchell moved to include agenda item #4 (Discussion Concerning Extension of 30-year Health Insurance Benefit) into the County Manager's Monthly Activity Report (agenda item #7). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall.

Commissioner Barber said he believed there had been some discussion to move agenda item #4 to the first meeting in February. Chairman Ford responded that if the discussion were to come back as an action agenda item, the topic could be added to the next agenda.

Commissioner Coltrain was agreeable with moving the item to the next meeting. Commissioner Coltrain said the issue would affect county staff and he did not want to see the discussion “go away”.

Chairman Ford explained that the insurance benefit had ended December 31, 2009 and since no action was to be taken, the motion was to move the item to reports.

Commissioner Coltrain asked if the Board would be able to discuss the issue to determine if action was needed at some point. Chairman Ford said if someone placed the issue on a future agenda and there was action to be taken, the Board would discuss the item.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Hall moved to delete agenda item #5 (Discussion Regarding Vacancy of Sheriff’s Position) from the agenda, unless there was convincing documentation to indicate the Commissioners needed to take action on the sheriff’s position at this time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell.

Commissioner Coltrain said he had placed the item on the agenda due to the numerous inquires he had received as to how the Board was going to manage the vacancy of the position. Commissioner Coltrain said he had requested that the issue be discussed so he would know how to respond to inquires.

Upon being put to a vote the motion on the floor passed 3-2 with Commissioners Barber and Coltrain dissenting.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barber moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Set Public Hearing for February 2, 2010 to Consider Proposed Text Amendments to Rowan County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II Personnel
- B. Approval to Award Service Sidearm to Retiring Sheriff’s Deputy Thomas Ludwig
- C. Approval for Library to Apply for Woodson Foundation Grant

2. RECOGNITION OF WEST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM AND APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION

After the playing of the West Rowan High School fight song, Chairman Ford read the following proclamation honoring the West Rowan High School football team for its recent 3A state championship win:

WHEREAS, the West Rowan High School Varsity Football Team, under Coach Scott Young and Staff, is to be recognized and honored for their victorious 2009 football season; *and*

WHEREAS, this impressive team has demonstrated its phenomenal strength and the skill of talented players throughout the season by claiming Regional, Sectional and Conference titles, with an amazing final win to secure the 3A State Championship title for the SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR; *and*

WHEREAS, the individual efforts of all team members was crucial to the successful season; and the tremendous commitment and excellent performance of these young Rowan County men, along with their coaching staff, have proven to be a source of admiration and inspiration to the citizens of Rowan County; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor the 2009 West Rowan High School Varsity Football Team and Coaching Staff for their incredible achievements and to commend them for their display of sportsmanship and leadership as they represented Rowan County.

Chairman Ford called Coach Scott Young forward to present the proclamation. A round of applause and a standing ovation followed the presentation.

Commissioner Mitchell moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Ford opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. With no one coming forward, Chairman Ford closed the Public Comment Period.

4. DISCUSSION CONCERNING EXTENSION OF 3-YEAR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT

This topic was moved into agenda item #7 (County Manager's Monthly Activity Report to the Board).

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING VACANCY OF SHERIFF'S POSITION

This issue was deleted from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Emergency Services – Budget restricted funds through United Way donation by citizens for EMS equipment/services - \$75
- Social Services – Budget for an increase in the amount of federal funds received for Crisis Intervention Assistance administered by Rowan Helping Ministries. The contract has been amended to allow issuance of additional funds to clients in need of heating and cooling assistance - \$142,888

- Social Services – Increase expenditures to cover the anticipated need for Medicaid Transportation, based on spending for the first 6 months of the fiscal year. Reducing the budget for Child Support Incentives spending in order to provide the required 50% county match for relative transportation - \$179,200

Commissioner Coltrain moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the budget amendments as submitted passed unanimously.

7. COUNTY MANAGER'S MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT TO THE BOARD

Commissioner Hall expressed appreciation to County Manager Gary Page for preparing the report. Commissioner Hall asked Mr. Page to explain the significant increases in fuel sales at the Rowan County Airport (Airport) as compared to the same time last year.

Gary reported that even during the down economy, the number of planes and operations at the Airport had been maintained and occupancy was still up. Mr. Page said he had recently met with the Airport Director and Internal Auditor to discuss ways for the Airport to remain competitive and make money. Mr. Page commended Airport Staff and the Airport Advisory Board for keeping the Airport headed in a positive direction and for helping the Airport pay for itself.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber.

Commissioner Hall pointed out the increased activity for the Department of Social Services (DSS) as compared to the same time last year. Commissioner Hall expressed pleasure that the new DSS facility would soon be open to help meet the needs of the citizens.

Mr. Page commended DSS Staff for doing a great job responding to the increased demand in services despite no staff increase.

Commissioner Barber commented that the Sheriff's Department had done a phenomenal job in the transition following the retirement of Sheriff George Wilhelm.

Commissioner Barber said only eight (8) new building permits had been issued for the month of December while a typical month had twenty-six (26) to thirty (30). Commissioner Barber felt the economy would continue to struggle and the Board should remain frugal.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed unanimously.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Mitchell moved at 4:18 pm for the Board enter Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(6) for a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Before entering Closed Session, Chairman Ford called for a five-minute recess. The Board officially entered Closed Session at 4:25 pm.

The Board returned to Open Session at 4:55 pm. No action was taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Mitchell moved to adjourn at 4:56 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey, CCC
Clerk to the Board